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of all the international problems of the day, that of the arrest of competitive arming. Armaments have continued to grow, especially on the sea, and the naval budgets of the leading maritime powers have gone up at a frightful pace. Large deficits appear in the accounts of the leading powers, that of our own government for the year being little less than the entire naval estimate (\$136,000,000) for the coming year. New sources of taxation are anxiously sought by the finance ministers in order, if possible, to wring out of the already over-burdened people the money with which to meet the exorbitant new demands. Suspicion, anxiety, tension, panics, the inevitable result of rivalry in armaments, prevail and distract the public mind. This irrational and ruinous situation ought not to be allowed to continue longer. Is there no statesmanship anywhere with clearness of insight and with courage enough to begin at once to find the solution? Meanwhile our Board has done what it could to bring about an arrest of the prevailing rivalry by sending its own strong remonstrance to Congress, by securing influentially-signed protests from business men, clergymen and others, and by the distribution throughout the nation, to the fullest extent of our means, of literature bearing upon the subject. In this effort all our Branch and Auxiliary Societies and many other organizations have coöperated.

So far as we are able to judge, opposition to further increase of armaments is steadily spreading among the people. All classes are beginning to see dimly the way in which they are being duped by fallacious arguments and their patriotism exploited in the interests of great military and naval establishments. The German friends of peace have recently for the first time issued a powerful appeal to their government not to go further in the ruinous course. In Great Britain the government itself is now foremost in the portrayal of the absurdity and peril of the situation, though it seems powerless to take the step that would bring relief. Our own Congress turned down again this year, by an increased majority, the Executive's four battleship program — defeated it, we hope forever, and registered a strong vote against the addition of even two ships to the navy. But the promoters of naval increase are loud and insistent in their demands. They seem unmoved by considerations of either reason or economy. Arguments of the most fanciful and baseless character are put forward by them. Groundless alarms of war are conjured up by them in order to frighten the people into accepting and paying for their costly schemes. It is evident, therefore, that the struggle with this colossal evil, which is every day growing more burdensome and perilous, is not to end at once. The friends of peace themselves must awake more fully to its insidious character. They must cease to temporize. In season and out of season they must let their voice of protest be heard. They must, on the other hand, continually point out the better way — the way away from the jungle and the valley of death, the way to that which is divine, which is truly human and worthy of men.

THE EIGHTEENTH INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONGRESS.

We are glad to be able to announce that arrangements have already been made for the eighteenth International Peace Congress, which will be held at Stockholm, Sweden, from August 29 to September 5.

THE OUTLOOK.

In spite of the dark shadow of rivalry in armaments which hangs over the world, the outlook on the whole has never been so good as it is now for the complete triumph of our cause at a comparatively early day. The very extreme to which competitive arming is being pushed is arousing public attention to the folly and madness of the race. The past year has been unusually full of events illustrative of the new spirit of justice, mutual respect, trust and reliance on moral forces which is more and more prevailing throughout the world, and preparing the way of permanent peace. The inauguration of the British International Hospitality Fund, the remission to China of a part of the Boxer indemnity, the reception accorded the London Peace Congress by the King and government of Great Britain, the welcome of the Interparliamentary Union by the Emperor and Parliament of Germany, the protest of the people and Parliament of Germany against the Emperor's public criticisms of the English, the Casablanca Arbitration between France and Germany, the revolution in Turkey with so little bloodshed, the submission of the Newfoundland Fisheries dispute and our troubles with Venezuela to the Hague Court, the signing of so many treaties of obligatory arbitration, the Pan-American Scientific Congress, the Maritime Conference, the inauguration of the Central American Court of Justice, the joint declaration of the governments of the United States and Japan as to their pacific policies in the East and on the waters of the Pacific, — what other recent twelvemonth can show so many events as the one just past, demonstrating the power and progress of the great cause for which the American Peace Society has so long labored?

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD,

May 13, 1909.

Secretary.

Letter of President Taft to the Secretary of the Chicago Peace Congress.

My Dear Sir: I greatly regret that I am unable to attend the coming National Peace Congress at Chicago, and there to express my earnest sympathy with the object of the assembling of so many distinguished men in the interest of world peace. That progress has been made in the matter of peace everywhere by international action and by the pressure of the peoples of the earth, any one who has examined the record must admit. It is true that armaments go on increasing in cost, but it is also true that the burdens imposed by this competition in armament are growing heavier and the problems for solution consistent with their increase become more and more difficult. The possibilities of war now arising come chiefly from irresponsibilities of government, and in those countries where stability of internal control is lacking. The United States has contributed to peace by assisting countries weak in respect to their internal government so as to strengthen in them the cause of law and order. This relation of guardian and ward between nations and countries in my judgment helps along the cause of international peace and indicates progress in civilization. The policy of the United States in avoiding war under all circumstances except those plainly inconsistent with honor or its highest welfare has been made so clear to the world as hardly to need statement at my hands. I can only say that, so far as my legitimate influence extends while at the head of this government, it will always be exerted to the full in favor of peace, not only as between this country and other countries, but as between our sister nations.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) WILLIAM H. TAFT.